

From: Matt Shepherd
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 8:51am
Subject: Microsoft Antitrust Settlement

The United States government has failed the very people it is meant to serve in its antitrust case against Microsoft. In case there is any doubt as to who the government is supposed to serve it is the people, not multinational corporations.

Just at the time this case has seemingly come to a close Microsoft has released its latest operating system- Windows XP. This operating system goes further than any Microsoft software before it in pushing Microsoft's power onto an uniting public. Tools for burning CDs, playing videos, listening to music, etc. are all packaged in the operating system, and beyond that it is often difficult if not impossible for users to uninstall these add-ons should they decide they want to use a 3rd-party product. I for instance have no idea how to uninstall Microsoft Outlook Express.

Aside from limiting consumer choice, this is a danger to the consumers. Outlook Express, much like the Microsoft operating systems itself is a gaping security hole that I do not want running on my computer. The FDA tests food and pharmaceutical products to be sure they are safe to be released to the public, and yet the public has no protection against equally dangerous computer software. Windows XP is not only a slap in the face of the DOJ and its antitrust case with these bundled programs, but it is also a major security risk which puts common everyday citizens in danger of having their identities stolen, their financial information stolen and abused, and/or of having their computer hardware hijacked and used in distributed denial of service attacks.

Please do not let the current "settlement" pass. It is nothing more than a surrender on the part of the government and a signal to Microsoft that they have free-reign over the computer software market.

Thank You,
Michael M Shepherd

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